

HOUSE RESOLUTION 171
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Colonel James S.
Corbitt of Martin.

WHEREAS, it was with deep sadness and a profound sense of loss that the residents of Martin and the members of the Tennessee General Assembly learned of the death of one of Tennessee's most beloved and prominent citizens, Colonel James Stitt Corbitt; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Corbitt began working in the engineering field while a student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, working with the Tennessee State Highway Department, the United States Bureau of Public Roads and with the Corps of Engineers at the Wilson Dam in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 1931 and became one of the first engineering faculty members at University of Tennessee-Martin, when it was known as UT Junior College, teaching engineering and math at that school from 1931-1933; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Corbitt worked with the Tennessee State Forestry Service for two years and then went to work for the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, a job he held from 1935 until 1962; and

WHEREAS, he served his country with distinction through the military, joining the ROTC while a student and entering the National Guard as a private in 1929, rising through the ranks to retire as a colonel in 1962; and

WHEREAS, his active military service, from 1940-1946, included service with the 30th Infantry (Old Hickory) Division, the ski troops at Camp Hale, Colorado, and the 77th Infantry Division in the Southwest Pacific, the Philippines and north Japan during occupation; and

WHEREAS, upon his release from active duty, Colonel Corbitt returned to Tennessee and successfully organized the first National Guard tactical unit in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he also served admirably as president of the Humphreys County Telephone Company; and

WHEREAS, in the true spirit of the Volunteer State, Colonel Corbitt generously served on the Board of Directors of the West Tennessee Council of Boy Scouts, the Board of Governors of the UT Alumni Association, as vice president of the General Alumni Association, on the UT Martin Development Council and the UT Martin Alumni Council; and

WHEREAS, he strongly supported UT Martin with several endowments which he started and had donated a series of historical papers and photographs to the school's Paul Meek Library; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Corbitt was a valued member of the First United Methodist Church of Martin, Rotary International (having had at one time a perfect attendance record for 22 years), Tau Beta Pi national engineering honors society, several patriotic societies and historical groups in Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina and Indiana; and

WHEREAS, he and his late wife had two children, a son Jim and a daughter Betty Callis, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to join with his family, relatives, and numerous friends in mourning the passing of this outstanding Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Colonel James S. Corbitt and express our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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